

Remarks

The Official Action rejected claims 31-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lapidous et al. (U.S. Patent 6,677,945) in view of Sobel et al. (U.S. Patent 6,300,935). Applicant has amended claim 36 and requests that the present rejection of claims 31-53 be withdrawn.

It is well established that obviousness requires a teaching or a suggestion by the relied upon prior art of all the elements of a claim (M.P.E.P. §2142). Without conceding the appropriateness of the combination, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Lapidous and Sobel does not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that the proposed combination lacks at least one element of each of claims 31-53 as explained below.

Claims 31 and 42

Each of claims 31 and 42 requires a register to store a value that identifies a variable format and a W-buffer to store normalized W values in the variable format specified by the value stored in the register. The Official Action appears to rely on Sobel for a teaching of a register to store a value that identifies a variable format and points to column 4, lines 26-62 for support. However, Applicant has reviewed Sobel and column 4, lines 26-62 in particular and has found no teaching in regard to a register to store a value that identifies a variable format. It appears that the Official Action may be relying on the register array of Sobel. However, the register array merely stores pixel values captured by a CCD sensor in a manner that aids in color interpretation calculations. (See Sobel, column 11, line 35 through column 12, line 34). The values stored by the register array of Sobel do not appear to identify a variable format, and the

values stored by the register array do not seem to specify a format for storing values in a buffer as required by claims 31 and 42.

If the Examiner elects to maintain the present rejection of claims 31 and 42, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify with more specificity (e.g. column, line, and/or reference number) where Sobel teaches a register to store a value that identifies a variable format. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 31 and 42 be withdrawn.

Claims 32-35 and 43-49

Each of claims 32-35 and 43-49 includes one of claims 31 and 42 as a base claim. Accordingly, each of claims 32-35 and 43-49 is allowable for at least the reasons stated above in regard to claims 31 and 42. Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims 32-35 and 43-49 be withdrawn.

Claim 36

Claim 36, as amended, requires storing a value that is indicative of a floating point format, converting normalized W values to the floating point format indicated by the stored value, and storing the normalized W values using the floating point format indicated by the stored value. The Official Action appears to rely solely on the teaching of Lapidous for the above aspects of claim 36. Lapidous describes a decision logic module 1050 that selects between a 16-bit or 24-bit format for a depth value. However, Lapidous does not disclose storing a value in the decision logic module 1050 to identify floating point format. Further, there does not appear to be any reason for Lapidous to store such a value since the decision logic module 1050 merely selects between two formats based upon comparison results received from the depth value comparator.

Lapidous simply does not disclose each and every element of claim 36 since Lapidous does not disclose **storing a value indicative of a floating point format**, converting values to the floating point format **indicated by the stored value**, and storing the values using the floating point format **indicated by the stored value**.

If the Examiner elects to maintain the present rejection of claim 36, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify with more specificity (e.g. column, line, and/or reference number) where Lapidous and/or Sobel teaches (i) storing a value indicative of a floating point format, (ii) converting values to the floating point format **Indicated by the stored value**, and (iii) storing the values using the floating point format **Indicated by the stored value**. Applicant respectfully requests the present rejection of claim 36 be withdrawn.

Claims 37-41

Each of claims 37-41 includes claims 36 as a base claim. Accordingly, each of claims 37-41 is allowable for at least the reasons stated above in regard to claim 36. Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims 37-41 be withdrawn.

Claim 50

Claim 50 requires instructions that result in a computer system configuring a buffer to store normalized values of an image using a first floating point format **by storing a first value indicative of the first floating point format**. The Official Action appears to rely solely on the teaching of Lapidous for the above aspects of claim 50. As stated above, Lapidous describes a decision logic module 1050 that selects between a 16-bit or 24-bit format for a depth value. However, Lapidous does not disclose storing a value in the decision logic module 1050 to identify floating point format. Further, there

does not appear to be any reason for Lapidous to store such a value since the decision logic module 1050 merely selects between two formats based upon comparison results received from the depth value comparator. Lapidous simply does not disclose each and every element of claim 50 since Lapidous does not disclose configuring a buffer to store the normalized values of an image using a first floating point format ***by storing a first value indicative of the first floating point format storing a value indicative of a floating point format.***

If the Examiner elects to maintain the present rejection of claim 50, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify with more specificity (e.g. column, line, and/or reference number) where Lapidous and/or Sobel teaches configuring a buffer to store normalized values of an image using a first floating point format ***by storing a first value indicative of the first floating point format*** . Applicant respectfully requests the present rejection of claim 36 be withdrawn.

Claims 51-53

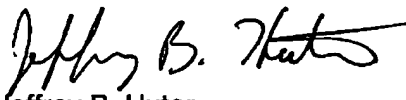
Each of claims 51-53 includes claims 50 as a base claim. Accordingly, each of claims 51-53 is allowable for at least the reasons stated above in regard to claim 50. Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims 51-53 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action. Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested, and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666. If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities which can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at +65 6213 1481 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey B. Huter
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 41,086

c/o Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, LLP
1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4040
(408) 720-8300

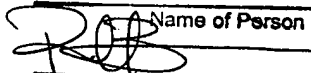
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on.

12/31/04

Date of Deposit

Rachael Brown

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence



Signature

12/31/04

Date